

DISTRICT LEADER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION



Candidate's Name: **Desmond D Calloway**

Candidate's Office: **Division L Director** District Number: **55**

Toastmasters member since: **July 1, 2015**

Education:

Keller Graduate School of Management, Houston, Texas 2012 - 2013
Masters Information Systems Management: Project Management
Campus Mentor: Driven Class
GPA: 3.6

DeVry University, Houston, Texas 2011 - 2012
Bachelor of Science (B.S.): Technical Management
Delta Epsilon Iota Honor Society
GPA: 3.25

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Officers for Club 00007757 Club VP PR January 1, 2018 June 30, 2018
Officers for District 55 Area Director July 1, 2017 June 30, 2018
Officers for Club 00007757 Club VP PR July 1, 2017 December 31, 2017
Officers for Club 00007757 Club President January 1, 2017 June 30, 2017
Officers for Club 00007757 Club President July 1, 2016 December 31, 2016
Officers for Club 00007757 Club Sergeant at Arms January 1, 2016 June 30, 2016

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Advanced Leader Bronze (ALB) July 31, 2017
Competent Communicator (CC) June 20, 2017
Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB) November 02, 2016
Competent Leader (CL) September 22, 2016
Competent Communicator (CC) July 25, 2016

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District officer:

In each position, I have worked to build a sense of leadership and responsibility for all member of my team. Whether I was a working member of the team or a member of organizational leadership, I upheld the belief that leadership starts from within; that all members are leaders in their own right and should take ownership and pride in the work that they perform. This translates to the core mission of Toastmasters, in build communicators and leaders within our communities. I have worked currently as a training leader in facilitating new, previously un-offered training to members of the agency working to understand the reporting needs of their individual program area.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

As a systems analyst, I have worked with program areas to find the best development solutions for their reporting needs. These reports are used to help plan for biennial needs of the agency as a whole while upholding the mission of the agency to manage, regulate and enforce the environmental regulations and standards for the state of Texas.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

As a retail manager for both small box and big box entities, I was responsible for the day to day finances of the organization. I worked in these roles to ensure that the daily transactions of the company balanced and was accurately represented to the leadership. If any discrepancies were noted, I would work to find the source of the issue and the proper path of resolution for the concern.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

One of my roles as developer has been to create best practices and procedures for completing the needed work for end users at my employer. This requires me to research known practices and methods to ensure that the information is communicated to my target audience in a manner that is most appropriate. Previous to my current role, I embraced these skills as a college instructor, outlining the course expectations and policies for the program to ensure student success during the course of the term.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

The most important lessons I have learned is that, you may be experienced in your field and may possess knowledge that other may not, but you still have much to learn if you think you have learned it all. I know that I can never know everything, but when I have a question, even as a leader, that I can lean to those that have the answers and learn from them. If a person believes that there is nothing left for them to learn about a subject, they are either the only person in the field, or they are to proud to reach out for more understanding. For a leader to be most effective, they should not only know how to get the most out of their team, but be humble enough to know that they are no different than those they aspire to lead.

Why do you want to serve as a district officer?

I would like to serve as a district officer to further reach out to those individuals and clubs who are striving to become the best versions of themselves possible. In do such, I hope promote the core values of Toastmasters not only to fellow members and leaders, but to the community as a whole. The roles within district leadership are important to the well being of the organization, and I know that by educating others of the processes and vision of the Toastmasters organization, we can ensure that the leaders of tomorrow are ready to overcome the obstacles of today.

In your opinion, what are the district mission's major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?

In my own words, I believe to objectives of the district is not only to grow the number of members and clubs on our portfolio, but to educate members and the community of the benefits of becoming a Toastmaster. I feel that the education aspect of the organization is important to people and companies. In my opinion, the direction the district is taking is that of informing the current members but reaching out to those individuals and entities that have been underserved and bringing them together with us to broaden our collective knowledge and understanding overall.

Additional information about yourself:

I understand the struggles of working adult, current and prior military personnel, and students of every walk of life. I believe education and support are key to the success of any endeavor. As a student, I experienced many trials that led me to take almost 13 years to continue my education. Upon my return to school, I achieved a 3.6 cumulative grade-point average, proving that through challenges in life, a healthy diet of diligent work and dedication to one's mission, all things are attainable. I bring that same mentality to my efforts within Toastmasters. My current role as Area Director has provided me with a thorough foundation and understanding of the principles and procedures that affect club and district operation every day. My education in Information Technology Project Management has awarded me the resources to manage projects of various scopes in a responsible and confident manner. My daughters have taught me to always be in a mindset to learn and experience something new. I bring with me the knowledge not of how to be a perfect parent, but rather of how to look at life and the opportunities that present themselves in a pure light. There will be bumps in the road along the way, but with the support of family, friends and those who are always in your corner, anyone can reach new heights. In reaching those landings, we should also remember to bring those who supported our efforts along with us. Nurturing their learning, so that they can do the same.